Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAIR, FR, US

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: TWA'S LONDON-PARIS FLIGHTS

REF: PARIS 33405

- 1. TWA REP, UPON RECEIPT QUERY FROM CARRIER'S WASHING-TON OFFICE ON WHETHER ANYTHING FURTHER HAD BEEN HEARD FROM DGAC RE AUTHORIZATION FLIGHTS 701/702. INOUIRED OF EMBASSY NOV. 25 WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN ANY NEW DEVELOP-MENT OF WHICH WE WERE AWARE. TWA HAD YET TO RECEIVE FROM DGAC REPLY TO REQUEST THAT ITS APPLICATION BE RECONSI-DERED. WE SAID WE HAD NOT BEEN FURTHER IN TOUCH WITH DGAC FOLLOWING CONVERSATION REPORTED REFTEL, OF WHICH WE HAD APPRISED TWA, AND WE ADDED THAT WE WERE RELUCTANT PURSUE MATTER FURTHER WITH DGAC IN ABSENCE INSTRUCTIONS FROM THEDEPT. TWA REP SAID TWA HAD BEEN FORCED BEGIN RECRUITING ADDITIONAL AIRPORT PERSONNEL TO HANDLE THIS FLIGHT BEGINNING DEC. 1, AND IT WAS URGENT THAT TWA HAVE DGAC DECISION SOONEST. WE COUNSELED TWA REP TO CITE THESE PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN INFORMAL APPROACH SEEKING EARLY DECISION FROM ESPEROU OF DGAC.
- 2. TWA REP REPORTED BACK THAT ESPEROU HAD INFORMED HIM DECISION WAS NEGATIVE AND LETTER SO INFORMING TWA WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNDER PREPARATION. REASON, ESPEROU SAID, WAS THAT GOF HAD CONCLUDED TWA WAS NOT ENTITLED UNDER THE US-FRANCE BILATERAL TO SERVE PARIS VIA LONDON FROM NEW YORK.

3. COMMENT: PENDING RECEIPT OF BACKGROUND INFO ON NEGOTIATING HISTORY OF 1960 EXCHANGE OF NOTES WE ARE NOT IN POSITION COMMENT ON HOW WELL FOUNDED THE GOF INTER-

PRETATION OF THE BILATERAL MAY BE. HOWEVER, TO THE EXTENT THAT THE BACKGROUND WOULD JUSTIFY ANY HAIRSPLITTING THAT THE FRENCH THINK THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET AWAY WITH, WE SUSPECT THAT ONE REASON THEY WOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO LEAN IN FAVOR OF A RESTRICTIVE INTERPRETATION IS PERHAPS TO PROVIDE THEMSELVES WITH WHAT THEY MIGHT CONSIDER WAS YET ANOTHER BARGAINING COUNTER IN THE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS THAT WILL PROBABLY TAKE PLACE IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF NEXT YEAR. ALSO, WITH THE DROPPING OF AIR FRANCE DAYTIME SUBSONIC SERVICE TO NEW YORK FOLLOWING INAUGURATION OF CONCORDE SERVICE, GOF DISAPPROVAL OF TWA FILING FOR A DAYTIME SERVICE TO PARIS VIA LONDON ELIMINATES COMPETITION FROM TWA FOR CONCORDE FOR FIRST CLASS TRAFFIC OUT OF NEW YORK.

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